

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04654 200921Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /069 W
----- 096866

R 190544Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4654

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PGOV PINR ET

SUBJECT: NEW APPOINTMENTS

ETHIOPIAN HERALD APRIL 18 ANNOUNCES TWELVE NEW APPOINTMENT TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSTS. APPOINTMENTS, WITH AVAILABLE EMBASSY BIO INFO APPENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. COLONEL SIMRET MEDHANE, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING.
(SEE ADDIS 4580, 4391, AND 4339)

2. ATO BETRU KIDANE-MARIAM, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE. (SEE ADDIS 0220)

3. BG TEFESSE AYALEW, GENERAL MANAGER OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES. APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS OLD, BG TAFESSE IS FROM HARAR. HE IS A GRADUATE OF MENELIK II SCHOOL IN ADDIS ABABA AND THE AIR FORCE CADEN SCHOOL. HE HAS RECEIVED TWELVE MONTHS TRAINING AT LACKLAND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 04654 200921Z

AIR FORCE BASE IN TEXAS AND APPARENTLY HAS ATTENDED THE PER-

SONNEL OFFICER SCHOOL AT MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPA. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF PERSONNEL FOR THE ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE. PREVIOUS MAAG ADVISORS TERMED HIM NOT A NATURAL LEADER AND NOT VERY DYNAMIC; MORE THE ADMINISTRATIVE TYPE. THE SAME ADVISORS HAVE NOTED THAT BG TAFESSE FREQUENTLY GRIPED ABOUT THE SMALL AMOUNT OF MILITARY AID THE US HAS GIVEN ETHIOPIA AND LIKED TO HINT THAT MAYBE RUSSIA WOULD BE APPROACHED IF THE US DID NOT DO BETTER. HE IS NOW WIDELY BRUITED TO HAVE BEEN INTRIGUING FOR SIMRET'S OLD JOB.

4. ABERRA MOLTOT, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF SIDAMO REGION. ABERRA IS BY PROFESSION A TEACHER WHO HAS SERVED ALSO AS A SCHOOL DIRECTOR AND HAS WORKED IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. HE HAS SERVED AS ASSISTANT MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS STUDIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES FINANCED BY USAID AND EN ROUTE THERE SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS IN INDIA AND MALAYSIA VISITING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE HAS ALSO TRAVELED TO MOSCOW. ABERRA BELIEVES THAT TRAINING IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES IS MORE VALUABLE THAN TRAINING IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SINCE IT IS MUCH MORE APPLICABLE TO THE ETHIOPIAN SITUATION. HE IS ALLEGED TO BE PRO-US AND APPRECIATIVE OF PAST US ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA, PARTICULARLY IN SETTING UP THE AWASSA TRAINING CENTER. SOME HIGH LEVEL ETHIOPIANS APPARENTLY JUDGED ABERRA TO BE HOPELESSLY OPTIMISTIC TO THE POINT OF REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS AND TO BRUSH OFF DIFFICULTIES WITHOUT GIVING THEM THE CONSIDERATION THEY DESERVE. ABERRA WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY ENDERASSIE OF ILLUBABOR IN MAY 1974. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS CHILDREN.

5. ATO GIRMAW ENGIDAYEHU, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION. HE MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS HEAD OF OPERATIONS DIVISION OF ETHIOPIAN BOARD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

6. BEYENE DESTA, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE ETHIOPIAN BOARD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. A GRADUATE OF HSIU SECONDARY SCHOOL, BEYENE RECEIVED A DEGREE IN SCIENCE FROM THE US. HE HAS ALSO ATTENDED A SEMINAR ON SATELLITE COMMUNICATION GROUND STATION PLANNING AND OPERATION IN LONDON. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE MANAGER OF THE RADIO DIVISION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BOARD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 04654 200921Z

7. ATO TSIGE ASFEHA, HEAD OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE IN THE COMMISSION FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

8. DR. ASMELASH BEYENE, HEAD OF PROVINCIAL (AWRAJAS) LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AN AFGRAD STUDENT IN THE US, ASMELASH SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS A LECTURER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT HSIU. HE ALSO SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF

THE ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. HE REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS.

9. ATO TAYE RETTA, HEAD OF PROVINCIAL (AWRAJAS) BORDER ADMINISTRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, RETAINING HIS TEMPORARY POST. BORN IN 1933 IN HARRAR, TAYE COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ADDIS ABABA. FOLLOWING THAT HE SPENT ONE YEAR AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AND THEN ATTENDED CLARK UNIVERSITY, WORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, GRADUATING SEPTEMBER 1958. HE MAINTAINED A "C" AVERAGE AT CLARK. HE WAS A DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM AND RESEARCH AND WAS THE CHIEF OF THE GEOGRAPHY SECTION OF THE ETHIOPIAN MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE. TAYE WAS CONSIDERED THE OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT BEHIND THE MGI AND WAS APPOINTED VICE MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, APPARENTLY IN EXPECTATION OF COORDINATION BETWEEN MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN EXECUTING PROGRAMS FOR SURVEY AND RECORDING LAND HOLDINGS. HE IS REPORTEDLY A WARM, LIKEABLE AND SOFT-SPOKEN PERSON WHO IS INTERESTED IN AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF ETHIOPIAN GEOGRAPHY. HE HAD WRITTEN SEVERAL OBJECTIVE, WELL-RESEARCHED ARTICLES ON LAND TENURE AND USAGE FOR THE "JOURNAL OF ETHIOPIAN GEOGRAPHY" WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR MORE EQUITABLE LAND TAX SYSTEM AND MORE PRODUCTIVE USE OF THE LAND. TAYE HAD PREVIOUSLY INVESTED IN A COMMERCIAL CHICKEN FARM.

10. MAJOR HAILE-MARIAM ABAY, HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND TRAINING IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MAJOR HAILE-MARIAM, WHO IS HALF TIGRE, HALF AMHARA, IS A HALF BROTHER OF BELAI ABAY WHO IS CURRENTLY IN DETENTION. WHILE ATTENDING SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY HAILE-MARIAM WAS REPORTED TO BE AN OPPORTUNIST WHO WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PROMOTE HIMSELF. HE REPORTEDLY WAS ONLY A MEDIOCRE STUDENT WHO DEPENDED ON HIS WIFE, TESSEMIE (WHO RECEIVED A MA WITH HONORS FROM SYRACUSE), TO WRITE MANY OF HIS PAPERS. HE IS REPORTEDLY A BELIEVER IN A NON-POLITICAL MILITARY AND UP UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ADDIS 04654 200921Z

VERY FRIGHTENED THAT HE WOULD BE IMPRISONED BECAUSE OF HIS FAMILY CONNECTION TO BELAI. HE DID, HOWEVER, MAKE AN EFFORT, AT SOME RISK TO HIMSELF, TO HELP AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN CONCLUDING THE KAGNEW NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE AND TURNOVER AGREEMENT. AS RESULT OF HIS EFFORTS, SECURITY POLICE REPORTED HIM TO THE THEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR COL. BELACHEW FOR INTERFERING IN SOMETHING THAT DID NOT CONCERN HIM. BELACHEW ALLEGEDLY COMMENDED HIS EFFORTS, HOWEVER, AS BEING APPROPRIATE TO HIS POSITION WHICH WAS THEN UNOFFICIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, BUT IN REALITY, A POSITION OF VICE MINISTER. HAILE-MARIAM HAS ALSO SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF ASSOSO AWRAJA (WELLEGA) AND MENGESHA AWRAJA (SHOA). HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MANDEFRO TEGEGNE AND IS, ACCORDING TO MANDEFRO, PRO-US.

11. PAULOS ABRAHAM, COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. (SEE ADDIS 2681)

12. MENGESHA WORKENEH, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF GOJJAM ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. BORN 1935 IN GOJJAM, HE HAS A BA FROM HSIU, MS IN ECON FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND A LLB FROM HSIU. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE ETHIOPIAN GRAIN CORPORATION WHERE HE HAD A VERY POOR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN GENERAL MANAGER WHO BLOCKED A 1969 HARVARD SCHOLARSHIP FOR MENGESHA FOR WHICH USAID HAD NOMINATED HIM. HE THEN SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED ETHIOPIAN TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION. AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH MENGESHA CONSIDER HIM INTELLIGENT, AMBITIOUS AND SELF-CONFIDENT; A POLITICAL LIBERAL BUT DECIDELY NOT RADICAL. HE WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE HSI REGIME BECAUSE OF ITS INABILITY TO LEARN AND ADAPT. HE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF RADICAL STUDENTS WHO, IN HIS OPINION, RISK CAUSING THE DISINTEGRATION OF ETHIOPIA. HE WAS FORMERLY CLOSE TO NEBIYE-LEUL KIFLE, CHIEF OF SECURITY IN THE EX-EMPEROR'S PRIVATE CABINET. TWO USAID OFFICERS WHO WORKED WITH MENGESHA IN 1957 EXPRESSED GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MENGESHA'S INTEGRITY, FEELING THAT HE COULD BE "BOUGHT." THEY FELT THEN THAT HE MIGHT LEAK INFORMATION ABOUT GRAIN CORPORATION DECISIONS TO COMPETITORS FOR THE RIGHT PRICE AND THAT MENGESHA WOULD MAKE DEALS TO GET WHAT HE WANTS. AT THAT TIME TWO AID OFFICERS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT MENGESHA "MAY JUMP TO THE TOP AT SOME UNEXPECTED TIME AND THE REASON REMAIN A MYSTERY."

13. A LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY PROMOTIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 ADDIS 04654 200921Z

BUT WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL LIST. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF APRIL 18 REFERRED TO DIRG SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN, MAJOR ABATE AS LTCOL AND TO DIRG CAPTAIN FISSEHA DESTA AS MAJOR.
HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS04654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750138-0770
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750433/aaaabfat.tel
Line Count: 206
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW APPOINTMENTS ETHIOPIAN HERALD APRIL 18 ANNOUNCES TWELVE NEW APPOINTMENT TO
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006